

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 /076 W
-----018258 181456Z /45

O P 181300Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1991
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
CINCEUR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USICA WASHDC PRIORITY

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USICA FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MARR, TU
SUBJ: TURKEY-NATO ROUNDUP

REF: ANKARA 3778 (DTG 171240Z MAY 78)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: SUMMARY. LOCAL PRESS MAY 18 CARRIES REPORTS OF STATEMENTS MADE IN BRUSSELS BY DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK AND TURKISH GENERAL STAFF (TGS) CHIEF GENERAL EVEREN ON LIMITS OF TURKISH ADHERENCE TO NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT, WHO RETURNED TO ANKARA FROM VIENNA LAST NIGHT, APPARENTLY DID NOT PUBLICLY ELABORATE FURTHER ON THEMES ON NATO-TURKISH AND US-TURKISH RELATIONS THAT HE HAS STRUCK DURING HIS EUROPEAN TOUR. SEVERAL TURKISH DAILIES CARRY ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON CITING STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES AS CONFIRMING THAT ECEVIT SENT PRESIDENT CARTER A MESSAGE TURNING DOWN SUGGESTION OF JOINT DECLARATION AT CONCLUSION OF NATO WASHINGTON SUMMIT. END SUMMARY

2. MOST LOCAL PAPERS, REPORTING PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S RETURN TO ANKARA EVENING MAY 17, CARRY REPORTS THAT TURKEY HAS REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH JOINT DECLARATION IN CONNECTION WITH MAY 30-31 WASHINGTON SUMMIT AND THAT GOT HAS PLACED RESERVATIONS ON ADOPTION OF NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP). LOCAL PRESS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT ECEVIT HAD ANYTHING NEW TO ADD TO HIS STATEMENTS ON NATO-TURKISH AND US-TURKISH RELATIONS, AS REPORTED REFTEL AND RELATED REPORTS. PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL BREAKFASTED MAY 17 WITH SECRETARY VANCE (SIC) AND CONGRESSMEN ZABLOCKI, SOLARZ, BROOMFIELD AND HAMILTON.

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3. CONSERVATIVE DAILY "TURGUMAN" MAY 18 REPORTS FROM BRUSSELS THAT DEFENSE MINISTER HASAN ESAT ISIK SAID TURKEY WOULD NOT TOTALLY REJECT THE LTDP AT THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE (DPC) MEETING TODAY. "TURGUMAN" REPORTER SEDAT SERTOGLU SAID, MOREOVER, THAT ISIK'S POSITION AT THE MAY 17 EUROGROUP MEETING WAS "INTRIGUING" IN THAT THE GOT DELEGATION DISCUSSED PRACTICAL FORMS OF DEFENSE COOPERATION, ALTHOUGH ECEVIT SAID THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT ENDORSE OR PARTICIPATE IN SUCH PLANS. SERTOGLU ALSO CITED ISIK'S COMMENT TO EFFECT THAT TURKEY FAVORS NATO EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE TENSION AND PROMOTE EAST-WEST DETENTE, BUT THAT TURKEY WOULD FOLLOW "MULTILATERAL DETENTE POLICY" OF ATATURK RATHER THAN A "RIGID BLOC POLICY."

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4. MODERATE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY "MILLIYET" MAY 18
CARRIES ARTICLE BY MEHMET ALI BIRAND FROM BRUSSELS REPORTING
STATEMENTS BY TGS CHIEF GENERAL KENAN EVREN WHO OBSERVED
"SHAPEX-78" EXERCISE AND MET WITH KEY NATO OFFICIALS IN RECENT
DAYS. EVREN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GOT WOULD PLACE GENERAL
RESERVATION ON LTDP AND THAT THE PROGRAM "WOULD NOT BE
ENFORCED BY ANKARA." ACCORDING TO BIRAND, EVREN STRUCK BY-NOW

FAMILIAR REFRAIN THAT THE TURKISH CONTRIBUTION TO NATO CANNOT BE MAINTAINED AT THE PRESENT LEVEL WHILE THE EMBARGO IS IN FORCE AND UNLESS NATO ALLIES INCREASE ECONOMIC AID TO TURKEY. BIRAND CONCLUDED THAT THE TURKISH RESERVATION ON THE LTDP WOULD NOT PRECLUDE ITS IMPLEMENTATION BY OTHER NATO MEMBERS AND HE REPORTED STATEMENT OF A NATO OFFICIAL THAT A SPECIAL NATO DECLARATION WOULD BE ISSUED ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIANCE NEXT YEAR RATHER THAN AT THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT.

5. SEVERAL PAPERS MAY 18 CARRY ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON CITING STATEMENT BY UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES CONFIRMING THAT ECEVIT SENT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER TURNING DOWN A SUMMIT DECLARATION. THIS REPORT CONTINUED: "STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, SPEAKING PRIVATELY, SAID THEY WERE NOT SURPRISED AT ECEVIT'S LETTER. BUT THEY SAID THEY WERE UPSET THAT HE CHOSE TO MAKE HIS FEELINGS PUBLIC BY DISCLOSING THE LETTER TO THE TURKISH NEWS AGENCY." ALSO, ASSOCIATED PRESS CLAIMED DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL CHARACTERIZED ECEVIT'S STANCE ON THE SUMMIT DECLARATION AS "RELATIVELY MILD" IN VIEW OF STRONG ANTI-EMBARGO SENTIMENTS IN TURKEY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL; COMMENT. COMMENTS OF DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK AND TGS CHIEF EVREN, AS PLAYED IN THE PRESS HERE, REFLECT A SLIGHTLY LESS STRINGENT LINE ON THE LTDP CONFIDENTIAL

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THAN CONVEYED IN ECEVIT'S RECENT STATEMENTS. BY PUBLICLY PURSUING THE ISSUE OF THE SUMMIT DECLARATION, ECEVIT HAS --FOR TURKISH DOMESTIC OPINION AT LEAST--BREACHED THE NATO CONSENSUS. HERETOFORE, THE TURKS HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN THEIR IMAGE AS A FULL AND FIRM ALLY DESPITE OCCASIONAL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SKIRMISHING WITH THE GREEKS OVER NATO ISSUES. IN THE TURKISH MIND, THE PROBLEMS OF CONTINUED FULL ADHERENCE OF TURKEY TO NATO, REPEAL OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AND ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO TURKEY'S DEFENSE AND ECONOMY ARE NOW INEXTRICABLY ENTWINED. SPIERS

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